

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07625 271156Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 /047 W
-----280323Z 079003 /65

R 270814Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

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TOKYO FOR MARATT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJECT: CALCUTTA BARGEMEN'S STRIKE ENDS, BUT NEW DISPUTES ERUPT

REF: A. NEW DELHI 6268 (NOTAL), B. CALCUTTA 1179 (NOTAL), C.
NEW DELHI 7117 (NOTAL)

1. THE 35 DAY STRIKE OF ABOUT 5,000 BARGEMEN AND LAUNCH CREW
OF THE CALCUTTA PORT ENDED MAY 24. THE STOPPAGE HAD PROVED
ESPECIALLY DISRUPTIVE TO THE JUTE INDUSTRY. THE STRIKERS WILL
RECEIVE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF RUPEES 50 PER MONTH,
RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1, PLUS A LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF RUPEES 240
AS COMPENSATION FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1976 TO MARCH
31, 1977.

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2. WHILE THE MAJOR PORT STRIKES IN CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY HAVE
NOW BEEN SETTLED, THE OVERALL LABOR SCENE, PARTICULARLY IN
THE BOMBAY AREA, REMAINS DISTURBED. IN BOMBAY AND ITS
NEARBY INDUSTRIAL SUBURB (THANA), THERE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN
OVER 113 STRIKES, 154 DEMONSTRATIONS, 17 HUNGER STRIKES AND
7 MAJOR PROCESSIONS SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS TERMINATED.
FIFTEEN THOUSAND WORKERS IN 50 INDUSTRIAL UNITS ARE NOW SAID

TO BE AFFECTED BY STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS. OF SPECIAL CONCERN IS THE STOPPAGE, NOW IN ITS 12TH DAY, BY OVER 14,000 ROAD TANKERS WHICH CARRY FURNACE OIL, WATER, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, AND CHEMICALS. THE LORRY OWNERS ARE DEMANDING AN INCREASE IN THEIR MINIMUM FREIGHT RATES, LAST FIXED IN 1974, AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY HAS SOUGHT THE INTERVENTION OF THE GOI.

3. IN A MEMORANDUM RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO THE UNION LABOR MINISTER, THE ALL INDIA MANUFACTURERS ORGANIZATION HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE PREVAILING POOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND WARNED THAT LACK OF GOI INITIATIVE IN BRINGING FORTH A SUITABLE POLICY WITH LABOR AND INDUSTRY COOPERATION WOULD LEAD TO A "SHARP SETBACK TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS." WHILE SOME COMMENTATORS SUCH AS P&T MINISTER GEORGE FERNANDES DO NOT THINK THE PROBLEM HAS REACHED WORRISOME PROPORTIONS (NEW DELHI 7395), THE CHIEF LABOR COMMISSIONER FOR THE GOI, GANGESH MISRA, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING LABOR DISPUTES, TOLD US THAT THEY INVOLVE MORE THAN FRUSTRATIONS PENT-UP DURING THE EMERGENCY. IN HIS OPINION, THERE ARE ISSUES OF WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND UNION REPRESENTATION WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IF THE SITUATION IS NOT TO BECOME REALLY SERIOUS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0187
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770510/aaaaahwn.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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